GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:132
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Indigent Artist Pension Scheme
Samal Dr. Kulamani

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the number of pension holders as well as amount of financial assistance in respect of artists in indigent circumstances under the "Indigent Artist Pension Scheme";

(b) the number of indigent artists in Odisha who have been benefitted under the 'Indigent Artist Pension Scheme' during the last two years;

(c) the financial assistance disbursed to Odisha in this regard during the last two years;

(d) whether the share of Central Government under the "Indigent Artist Pension Scheme" to Odisha is yet to be released; and

(e) if so, the details including the amount of assistance in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR CULTURE AND TOURISM
AND
MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION

(Dr. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) (i) Yes, Madam. The Expert Committee constituted under "Artistes Pension Scheme & Welfare Fund" recommended 184 additional indigent artistes for artistes pension in its Meeting held on 8th & 9th January, 2015. (ii) At present there is no proposal to enhance the amount of financial assistance including pension amount to the individual indigent artist.

(b) The number of indigent artistes in Odisha who have been benefitted under the 'Artist Pension Scheme & Welfare Fund' was 274 upto December, 2014. The number of such artistes was increased to 300 by addition of 26 more indigent artistes belonging to Odisha as recommended by Expert Committee in its Meeting held on 8th & 9th January, 2015.

(c) The financial assistance amounting to Rs. 1.88 crore has been disbursed during the last two years to those artistes of Odisha who furnished all required documents i.e. Life/Income Certificate & bank details etc.

(d) No, Madam. The grant under the Scheme stands released to beneficiaries.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.